

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Linda Palomar on 3/17/08.

In the claims:

11. (Currently Amended) A connector according to claim 10 wherein said electrical [members] elements are heating elements capable of causing heating in at least one of said first conduit, or said second conduit [and said patient interface].

12. (Currently Amended ) A connector according to claim 10 wherein said electrical [members] elements are wires that provide power to or enable sensing at one of [said patient interface,] said first conduit [and] or said second conduit.

13. (Currently Amended) A connector according to claim 10 wherein said electrical [members] elements are at least one heating element and a wire to supply power to or enable sensing at at least one of said first conduit, or said second conduit [and said patient interface].

*Allowable Subject Matter*

2. Claims 10-13 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

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The primary reasons for the indication of the allowability of claims 10-13 are the inclusion therein, in combination as currently claimed, of the limitation of said connector comprising: a tubular male portion located on one end of said first conduit and having a first electrical contact on its exterior, a tubular female portion located on one end of said second conduit and having a second electrical contact on its interior.

The previous listed limitation is neither disclosed nor taught by the prior art of record, alone or in combination.

#### Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DHIRU R. PATEL whose telephone number is 571-272-1983. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH, 6:30 TO 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego Gutierrez can be reached on 571-272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/DHIRU R PATEL/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2831